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Soldiers' baggage and effects from all Cuban ports, arriving at the above-mentioned ports in the United States after March 15, 1899, must be disinfected.

WALTER WYMAN,  
*Supervising Surgeon-General U. S. M. H. S.*

Approved :  
L. J. GAGE, *Secretary.*

*Inquiring into the causes of the prevalence or disappearance of yellow fever in certain seaports.*

[NOTE.—The replies will be published as received under the names of the countries to which they refer.]

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,  
*Washington, D. C., January 28, 1899.*

SIR: I am informed by the Surgeon-General of the United States Marine-Hospital Service that the subject of yellow fever in the various seaports of North and South America, including the West Indies, is one that is now engaging the attention of public sanitarians. It is desired to ascertain the cause of the prevalence of yellow fever in certain ports, the effect of municipal and port sanitation thereon, and to determine what measures, if any, may be taken to suppress, wholly or in part, this disease, which is not only a constant menace to human life, but a serious impediment to commerce.

I have, therefore, to request that our consular officers in the following-named ports be directed to transmit for the information of the Surgeon-General of the United States Marine-Hospital Service replies to the subjoined inquiries.

The reports indicated are desired from Port au Prince, Haiti; Jacmel, Haiti; Santo Domingo, Santo Domingo; Georgetown, Demerara; St. Thomas, Danish West Indies; Tampico, Mexico; Vera Cruz, Mexico; Progreso, Mexico; Merida, Mexico; Colon, United States of Colombia; Panama, United States of Colombia; Guayaquil, Ecuador; Maracaibo, Venezuela; Pernambuco, Brazil; Bahia, Brazil; Ceara, Brazil; Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; Santos, Brazil.

With regard to each of the above-named ports, it is desired to have a description of the harbor, together with diagrams showing the portions thereof wherein vessels are most liable to become infected with yellow fever and the reasons therefor, such as discharge of sewage, prevailing winds, stagnant water, etc.; also what plans have been made or suggested for improving these conditions in said harbors.

In addition to the above, replies are requested to the following inquiries relating to the ports:

First. What measures of municipal sanitation have been taken during the last twenty years which would have an effect upon the prevalence of yellow fever?

Second. What are the quarantine regulations now in operation and how long have they been in operation?

Third. What change has taken place within the last twenty years in the commerce with ports where yellow fever is endemic; *i. e.*, has there been a falling off or an increase of traffic with said ports?

Fourth. If attainable, mortuary reports of yellow fever to be transmitted by years. If said reports are not attainable, make such general statements as are possible relating to the increase or decrease of yellow fever in the past twenty years.

In preparing replies to these inquiries I am aware that there may be some expense to be incurred by the consul, particularly in obtaining illustrations or plans of the harbors, and this Department will pay from the Epidemic Fund at its disposal such necessary expenses as may be incurred by the consuls in obtaining these plans and illustrations.

I have the honor to remain, respectfully, yours.

L. J. GAGE, *Secretary.*

Hon. SECRETARY OF STATE.

[Reports to the Supervising Surgeon-General, United States Marine-Hospital Service.]

*Cerebro-spinal meningitis in Mobile, Ala.*

MOBILE, ALA., March 17, 1899.

SIR: I have the honor to state that the fourth case (a colored man) of cerebro-spinal meningitis died on the 10th instant. No other cases reported.

Respectfully, yours,

R. D. MURRAY,  
*Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.*

*Diphtheria, influenza, scarlet fever, and smallpox in Chicago, Ill.*

CHICAGO, ILL., March 13, 1899.

SIR: I have the honor to make the following report relative to contagious diseases in this city during the week ended March 11, 1899, viz, 20 certificates of death were returned to the office of the commissioner of health giving influenza or la grippe and its complications as the cause thereof, 6 to uncomplicated influenza and 14 to influenza as the cause, complicated with other affections, chiefly pneumonia. During the same period 9 certificates of death were returned, giving scarlet fever as the cause thereof, 100 cases being reported; also 14 giving diphtheria as the cause, 71 cases being reported, and 1 case of smallpox as reported in my letter of the 10th instant.

Respectfully, yours,

HENRY W. SAWTELLE,  
*Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.*

*Measles in Boston, Mass.*

BOSTON, MASS., March 12, 1899.

SIR: I have to report that there were 214 cases of measles in Boston during the past week. Only 2 deaths from this disease were returned to the board of health.

Respectfully, yours,

FAIRFAX IRWIN,  
*Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.*

*Influenza in New Haven, Conn.*

NEW HAVEN, CONN., March 15, 1899.

SIR: In response to circular letter of December 24, 1898, I inclose a report written by Dr. Mailhouse, who had charge of my work during my illness. During the epidemic in this locality I was unable to attend to my business, and was in Florida.

Respectfully, yours,

JNO. P. C. FOSTER,  
*Acting Assistant Surgeon.*

[Inclosure.]

The epidemic of la grippe which visited New Haven during the winter of 1898-99 arrived about the middle of November, attained its greatest intensity toward the end of December, and has now, February 4, about run its course, though a few cases are